

DAMAS PANAMENAS



# Agricultural Advantages of the Republic of Panama

By N. H. SECRET

HAVING traveled quite extensively throughout the republics of Central America, and being familiar with the lands on both the east and west coasts and in the interiors from Guatemala to Panama, I have found that in all the Central American republics there are lands which are exceedingly rich, upon which all tropical plants and fruits can be produced to perfection, while in the altitudes practically all of the fruits of the temperate zone can be raised.

In speaking of Central America, and comparing its climate and soil with those of the Republic of Panama, I know of no field for tropical agriculture that is so promising at the present time as the lands contained in the little Isthmian republic.

The world, it seems, is just awakening to the fact that in this country there are splendid opportunities for investments, and the value thereof on account of the splendid transportation facilities afforded by the Panama Canal to practically all the good markets of the world is attracting attention.

Not only for agriculture alone, but for the great field that is open for the raising of cattle, are the prospects excellent. Panama has in its interior magnificent prairies where cattle can roam for miles, and in view of the high prices and scarcity of meat and cattle in the United States, this is an industry that should not be overlooked. By crossing or breeding thoroughbred stock in this republic with native cattle, it is impossible to foretell how great would be the outcome of such an enterprise. Comparing this with the difficulties and high cost of raising cattle in the United States and England, there could be no comparison. In the magnificent lands in the Province of Coclé, in the District of Anton, the fertile tract known as the Llanos del Chiru, controlled by Dunnuck & Company, where the climatic conditions are ideal and the temperature and rainfall, I may say, perfect; where a man engaged in this industry is not put to the expense of building great barns for the protection of his cattle during the winter; where one does not go to the expense of purchasing machinery to garner his grass for feeding his stock; where there is no expense for coal to keep the help and family warm; where furs and extra heavy clothing are unnecessary; and where there are no enormous taxes upon property (the great drawback to farmers and stockraisers in foreign countries), there is a brilliant future for the man who invests his money in a cattle ranch.

Look at the great loss of stock reported in the papers every winter, from blizzards and extreme cold weather, even with expensive barns and sheds built for the special protection of the cattle. Stock raisers and farmers in the North know little of what can be done in this one enterprise in Panama. It has been only of recent years, in fact, during the construction of the Canal, that the people of the North thought that the Panamanian Republic was nothing more than a pest hole for malaria and yellow fever.

In the Llanos del Chiru all tropical fruits and vegetables grow to perfection; also corn, rice, sweet potatoes, yams and citrus fruits, oranges, limes, lemons, and grapefruit.

The next great step is for the government to establish agricultural schools for the coming generation. I feel that Panama has neglected this more than anything else, and not only this country but all the Spanish-American republics are backward in this respect, which has been a great hindrance to progress. I am glad that this republic is being awakened to the fact and realizes that through scientific methods of agriculture the country will be enriched beyond all anticipation. This is entirely possible, because it has vast territories of land containing the richest of soil, and has a climate for all kinds of tropical fruits and plants. It has its low lands, its medium, rolling lands, its table lands, prairies and mountains, and the Republic of Panama, situated as it is, has transportation

facilities unequalled by those of any other country in the world, for getting its products to market.

I shall now say something in regard to the great territory upon the Atlantic side of this Republic. Being well acquainted along this coast, and by exploration knowing some of the hinterland, and seeing for myself the many thousands of acres of rich lands going absolutely to waste, it has been a wonder to me that this Republic should have permitted this region to remain idle so long as it has. I am now speaking of the great San Blas district, or a portion of it. In one commodity alone this particular territory could build up a rival to the United Fruit Company, a corporation now considered in these countries as almost the equal of the Standard Oil Company, the greatest syndicate in the world.

In my opinion, and I have had all opportunities of knowing by practical experience of many years, there is not a region on the globe where soil, climatic conditions, rainfall, natural harbors and transportation facilities are more perfectly adapted for the growth and cultivation of one of the most valuable fruit commodities in the world today, and that is the banana, a fruit that one might say is yet in its incipiency, as far as its uses are concerned, although at present it is already generally and favorably known; in the past as a luxury, but now as a necessity. Every year this fruit is being transported farther and farther into places where it has been known only on the tables of the rich. No one unfamiliar with the raising and culture of the banana can realize what this one enterprise would mean in returns to the backers as well as in enriching the treasury of the Republic of Panama.

The latter has an abundance of land for this great enterprise and I know of no reason why the government does not see a way of opening up this great territory itself or giving inducement or encouraging capitalists or corporations to do so. The government itself has all the facilities for doing this first, the lands ideal; second, soil to perfection; third, splendid harbors; fourth, exceptional transportation facilities; fifth, its own people, who are capable of bringing these lands into perfection, thereby giving employment to the thousands who to-day only exist. Panama could charter her own steamship lines and transport her produce to the markets of the world. She would be able to compete with the largest concerns which are raising this one article of food and making millions every year.

I also wish to bring to attention another important factor. In all my travels and exploration along the coast and in the hinterland of San Blas, nowhere did I see (and I visited many small estates) any bananas that showed the slightest sign of having the great and troublesome disease that the plants of the United Fruit Company have been infested with, all the bananas being of a sturdy and healthy nature, and the fruit equal to the best that ever went to market. All along the Atlantic litoral bananas can be grown, while in the Canal Zone, although of course upon a smaller scale, from one boundary to the other they are raised to perfection with practically no cultivation.

Not only are the lands good for the banana industry, but where in all tropical regions do cocoanuts grow so luxuriantly as in this Republic? What other country receives better prices for its cocoanuts than Panama does for those grown on the San Blas coast? This particular class of cocoanuts is known everywhere and has a constant demand. This is due to the soil, the rainfall and the climate, all of which are particularly adapted to cocoanut culture. Large companies have awakened to this fact and many are taking up this enterprise. In the near future I look for one of the greatest booms that this country has ever had. Every year manufacturers are finding more uses for the cocoanut. The world is just learn-

NINOS PANAMEÑOS



Paredes-Aleman



Van Hoorde del Rio



Navarro-Arosemena



Smith-Arias



Arosemena-Arias



Henriquez-Quintero



Augusta V Strunz



María y Lilia Sosa



Carmen Villalaz y Miguel Moreno



Elia y Alcibiades Arosemena



Juan F. Gonzalez



Jorge E.R. Morales

# HOTEL CORCÓ

Acreditado establecimiento donde los pasajeros y pensionistas encuentran siempre el más afable trato y las mejores viandas de la cocina española.

**JOSE CORCÓ** - - **Propietario**

TRANSLATION BUREAU  
OF  
**José de la Cruz Herrera**

*A et Ph. D.*

*Official Interpreter for the  
Government of Panama*

Widely varied experience in all kinds of translations, legal, commercial, engineering, medical, etc. A university education, with special studies of living and dead languages, is a guarantee of correctness.

FIVE YEARS PRACTICE IN LONDON

*Private Lessons and Classes  
in Spanish*

**Panama, Avenue B. 19, top floor**

Telephone: National 141

## **José de la Cruz Herrera**

*Traductor de Lenguas.  
Intérprete Oficial.*

Mi extensa práctica en materia legal' comercial, de mecánica é ingeniería, industrial, médica, etc., unida á una educación universitaria esmerada, y á mi especialidad en el estudio de lenguas vivas y muertas, es garantía de *fidelidad y corrección literaria.*

**AVENIDA B. No. 19, 2º PISO**

Teléfono Nacional 141

# ISAAC BRANDON & BROS., Inc.

**General Merchants, Panama**

*Incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey, U. S. A.*

**CAPITAL STOCK \$750,000 U. S. C.**

Legally Authorized Agents of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company  
of London and Edinburg, Invested Funds £10,000,000

**SUB-AGENTS OF THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY**

REPRESENTATIVES OF

W. & A. GILBEY, Ltd., London, Wines and Spirits.  
JAMES HENNESSY & CO., Cognac.  
HENRI NESTLÉ, Condensed Milk.  
NESTOR GIANACLIS, Egyptian Cigarettes.  
J. & J. COLMAN, Ltd., London, Blue Mustard, etc.  
ROBERT PORTER & CO., Ltd., London, Bull-  
Dog Brand Guinness' Stout and Bass' Ale.

THE WILLIAM J. LEMP CO., St. Louis, Bottled  
Beer.  
BARTON & GUESTIER, Bordeaux, Clarets and White  
Wines.  
PHILIP W. HEIMAN, Copenhagen, Fine Danish  
Butter.  
AUGUSTINER-BRÄU, Celebrated Munich Beer.

AGENTS OF

## ISAAC BRANDON & BROTHERS

Commission Merchants, 17 Battery Place, New York

# R. W. HEBARD & CO., Inc.

**Engineers and Contractors**

No. 16 EXCHANGE PLACE  
NEW YORK

No. 17 AVENIDA B  
PANAMA, R. P.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS for the construction of the PANAMA ELECTRIC  
TRAMWAYS SYSTEM.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS for the construction of the CHIRIQUÍ RAILROAD  
PROJECT for the REPUBLIC OF PANAMA.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS for the REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA on studies for  
water supply, sewerage and paving for Managua, Capital of the Republic.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS for the construction of the HAMBURG-AMERIKA  
CO. OFFICE BUILDING at COLON; REPUBLIC OF CUBA LEGATION  
BUILDING at PANAMA; PALACIO DE GOBIERNO and PALACIO DE  
ARTES FOR PANAMA EXPOSITION.

**Designs, Estimates and Construction of Re-Inforced Concrete and other structures of  
modern design. Steam and Electric Railways. Water Power and Hydro-  
Electric Development. REPORTS FOR FINANCING**

The Firm and their Associates are especially equipped  
and prepared to undertake Engineering and Construc-  
tion Work in Central and South America

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED ON PROJECTS OF MERIT

ing the value of cocoanut oil in the manufacture of artificial butter, of the best quality, and of the by-product, copra cake, which has been found to be an ideal food for cattle, especially for dairy cows, inasmuch as it does not add a disagreeable flavor to the milk or butter.

In the Province of Colon, in the Districts of Nombre de Dios and Playa Dama, near the San Blas territory, a very large company or corporation, known as the Panama Cocoanut Plantation Company, managed and operated by capable business men, of which Messrs. Hyatt and Wilcox are at its head, has planted within the last year and a half 50,000 cocoanut plants under scientific methods of agriculture. It is the intention of this company to plant 25,000 more during the next year, and increase its nurseries to such an extent as to be able in the shortest possible time to plant 200,000 trees. Having had occasion to inspect this company's holdings, I will say that their prospects on account of the soil and location, bid most fair for success.

There is little cause to worry about the failure of a cocoanut plantation as only slight care and attention are necessary. I consider this industry extremely profitable, notwithstanding the long wait of seven or eight years before results can be expected. On the other hand, by cultivating other products from year to year during the growth of the trees, the great expense caused by waiting and the general care of cleaning, etc., would be wonderfully reduced. The long waiting, I feel, has been the only cause why capitalists have not taken up this valuable and profitable enterprise.

#### Sugar Cane

This is another great and profitable industry with which throughout my travels in Central America, I have become acquainted. Being familiar with cane culture, I can say that nowhere have I seen cane produced better than in this Republic, taking everything into consideration. The number of tons produced per acre will equal that of any plantation in Hawaii, Central America, Cuba or the other West Indies, I happen to know this by actual experience. It has been proved on the estates of the Panama Development and Manufacturing Company, known as the Cativa Sugar Company. Having been superintendent of these estates for several months, I know whereof I speak, and from what I have heard, there are other estates that no doubt will equal the Cativa property.

Taking the foregoing for example, however, with the experience I have had in cane culture, I do not believe that there is any country in the world that will produce more cane to the acre than Panama. The above mentioned estate produces on an average sixty tons of cane to the acre, each ton producing ten gallons of rum. At the time I left their services rum was worth one dollar, U. S. Cy., per gallon, or \$5.00 gold per demijohn, making \$600.00 gross per acre. They have already planted nearly 700 acres and have an extensive outfit for transporting cane to the mill as well as splendid machinery for crushing the cane and manufacturing rum. It has been the intention of this company to install first class sugar machinery, but so far this has not been done, due to unavoidable complications and litigation, besides friction between many of the stockholders and the management of the concern. The cane, however, is there, and under good management this estate can be made one of the most profitable enterprises in the Republic. Tests made by expert chemists, which have been compared with those taken from the best producing estates of Hawaii, Cuba and others of the West Indies, prove that the Cativa property can produce as many tons of refined sugar per acre as any plantation in any other of the above mentioned countries. They have had experts analyze the soil, note the rainfall, the climate, location, drainage, etc., and by scientific methods of agriculture there is no reason why the greatest of results cannot be obtained.

It is a known fact that the planters of the Gulf States cannot in any way compete with the tropics in producing cane, and with no duty on sugar imported into the United States, where more sugar is utilized than in any other country on earth, it is time that capitalists of Panama, with her splendid

transportation facilities, should manufacture sugar, not only for her own demands, but to help supply the markets of the world. Panama can furnish as much sugar as the great estates of Hawaii that return profits of millions every year.

#### Cacao

The cacao tree is a native of the tropical regions extending from Mexico through Central America to South America, and also of the West Indies. I doubt if there is any one commodity grown in the tropics that has been more highly spoken of, or about which more has been written, or upon which there have been more experiments to find the best methods of cultivation and of producing the best beans for the market, than cacao. I have had occasion to spend some time on several large estates in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Having paid more attention to the cultivation of cacao than to any one plant in the tropics, I was naturally much interested as to their methods of culture, the soil, climate and amount of rainfall. I also paid a great deal of attention to the production of the average amount produced per tree. I wish to state that there are places throughout the Republic of Panama, as well as in the Canal Zone, that are perfectly adapted for the culture of cacao. It has been advantageous to me that I have had a great deal to do toward the cultivation of cacao during my sixteen years' residence in the tropics. I have experimented in different ways and in different soils and have planted it in large quantities. Cacao has not been planted on a large scale in this country as in the neighboring republics, where planters have found it to be a profitable industry.

The United Fruit Company has just realized in the last few years that there is an enormous amount of money to be made by the cultivation of cacao. When a company of that calibre takes up an industry, in addition to the banana culture, you may be sure that it is extremely profitable, or it would not touch such an enterprise. The company now is planting thousands of these trees, utilizing hundreds of acres of its lands for cacao culture.

There are one or two other large estates that I know of. One is situated in the Canal Zone and the other on the west coast. It has been my pleasure to visit the plantation known as Las Cascadas Estate, in the Canal Zone. Having had several weeks upon this estate, I am able to say, from an agriculturist's point of view, that it has given me time to study the climate, the soil and the rainfall which have caused the growth and wonderful vigor of the cacao trees that are grown there. Trees that are from 20 to 25 years of age seemingly have as much vigor as the younger trees, and the soil shows no sign of exhaustion. This is remarkable, as I understand there has been no fertilizer used upon this estate. The soil planted to cacao here is exceptionally rich, made up of a deep loam intermixed with decaying vegetable matter and decomposed limestone over a subsoil of friable rock that permits of deep and free root growth. The vigorous growth and drouth-resisting capacity of the cacao trees bears ample testimony of this fact, the oldest trees producing both in quality and quantity as well as those of later planting. Although the estate now is in a poor state of cultivation and under neglect, yet it is producing plenty of fruit. It only goes to prove that by improved methods of cultivation cacao can be grown in Panama to perfection, not only in this particular district, but in many other parts of the republic. I know of no other fruit grown in the tropics that will give larger returns for the money invested than cacao. Manufacturers are constantly finding more uses for this commodity, and therefore in the market it has always a steady demand.

#### Citrus Fruits

This includes oranges, limes, lemons and grapefruit. The general public knows that these delicious fruits grow wild, or with no cultivation to speak of, throughout the whole Republic of Panama. What would be the results if cultivated as in California? There is no doubt in my mind that this industry could be made one of great profit. The fruit can be wonderfully improved upon by budding, although many oranges are found on the numerous fincas, or little farms,

that are most delicious in taste. Notwithstanding that these fruits grow nearly everywhere in Panama, this country does not supply its own inhabitants. Fruit is purchased continuously in season from the West Indies to supply the demand, not because the imported fruit is superior, but on account of the lack of interest taken here in its cultivation. Did you ever stop to consider that transportation from Panama to New York by steamer is quicker and cheaper than from California, where most of these fruits are grown? Yet they can be raised in this republic with less expense than those produced in California, where there are heavy frosts continually giving the horticulturist trouble, where lands cost more, where irrigation is necessary, labor is more expensive, the soil must be continually fertilized, and many other difficulties abound to be contended with, none of which exists in Panama. Why is this industry not pushed forward? There is no field in the tropics for the production of citrus fruits that is superior to that in this republic.

#### The Pine Apple

The Taboga pine has a rare flavor all its own that no one, after tasting, will ever forget. This pine can be grown throughout the Isthmus, and so superior is it to those produced in our own Southern States that there is no comparison. The government could install its own cannery and ship the finished product to foreign markets as is done in Hawaii. There may be a duty upon this special commodity, but not so much but that, if produced on a large scale, it could compete in price in any market with any quality of this fruit.

#### Coffee

Of all the products of Panama, coffee is the leader. Cultivated not only by Panamanians, but by Americans, Germans and British planters, it has, from all reports, become an exceedingly profitable industry. In the interior of the republic, at altitudes ranging from 2,000 to 4,000 feet above the sea, the peculiar and deliciously aromatic Panamanian coffee, for which there is such a great demand, is grown. In all coffee-producing countries there are certain districts which seem to be adapted perfectly for the production of an aroma peculiar to that country. The greater the altitude the better, as a much superior grade of coffee is thus produced, of the best flavor and possessing a more delicate and delicious aroma. Costa Rica grows its special coffee in the district of Santa Ana; Nicaragua, in the district of Matagalpa; Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico have their specialized districts. The Republic of Panama grows its special coffee on the table lands and mountainous regions of Chiriquí, the berry ranging in quality and prices with that of the neighboring republics. Panama, with its large areas of land suitable for the production of coffee, and by giving strict attention to improved methods of agriculture, can produce coffee that is a worthy rival of that grown in the countries above named. I feel that inducements and encouragements should be given, especially to the inhabitants of the republic, to increase the output of this valuable and profitable industry.

#### Timber

The public, it seems, even of Panama, not speaking of the outside world, knows little of its vast forests of timber lands which remain practically untouched and abound in many varieties of valuable commercial timber, viz., mahogany and cedar, for which there are such great demands throughout the world; nispero, or balata, from which is obtained chiefly the foundation of chewing gum, valuable not only for that purpose, but the wood, being hard, is suitable for all uses where strength is required; lignumvitae, guayacan, more valuable for the coloring matter it contains; espave, white and black guanacaste; roble or oak, quite suitable to that found in the United States; sapoti, and many other hard woods unknown as yet to foreign markets. There are many large tracts of timber land that could be easily worked on account of the splendid facilities for transportation afforded by the many rivers and streams that lie close by. This republic I would consider rich in its timber lands alone.

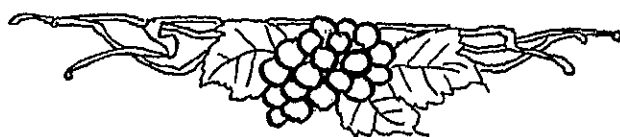
#### Cotton

It has been found in recent years that cotton can be cultivated in Panama beyond all expectations. This is a new enterprise and it has been proven by agricultural methods that cotton can be more profitably grown here than in the Gulf States of North America.

Another commodity which has recently come into prominence is the palm nut, on account of the oil obtained therefrom. This nut is produced from the different varieties of palms that grow throughout the republic. Manufacturers find many uses for the refined oil, especially as a lubricant for delicate machinery, and most recently used as an article for cooking purposes.

The yucca or cassava, known as an article of food, and from which the best of starch is made, as also tapioca, can be grown in large quantities. In fact, Panama could supply the world with this article, for which at all times there is a heavy demand.

There are many other plants and fruits that I should like to take up, such as tobacco, the avocado pear, the mango, the castor bean, the papaya, the vanilla bean and its culture, and rubber or *Castilleja Elastica*, besides the mineral wealth of the country that is still undeveloped. I wish to state in conclusion that it is impossible to find any other republic so perfectly adapted for tropical agriculture, and by establishing agricultural schools, connected with a suitable tract of land for experimenting on the different plants and fruits, and demonstrations to the pupils on the ground by instructors with practical knowledge and experience in the tropics (what an instructor should have before attempting to teach a pupil), the science of agriculture will be proportionately advanced. Practical demonstration and experience are far better for the pupil than the little knowledge that may be obtained from books alone. I see wonderful possibilities and progress for the Republic of Panama, and having such magnificent natural resources, there is no reason that her treasury should not be enriched an hundredfold.



REINAS DE LAS FIESTAS DEL CARNAVAL

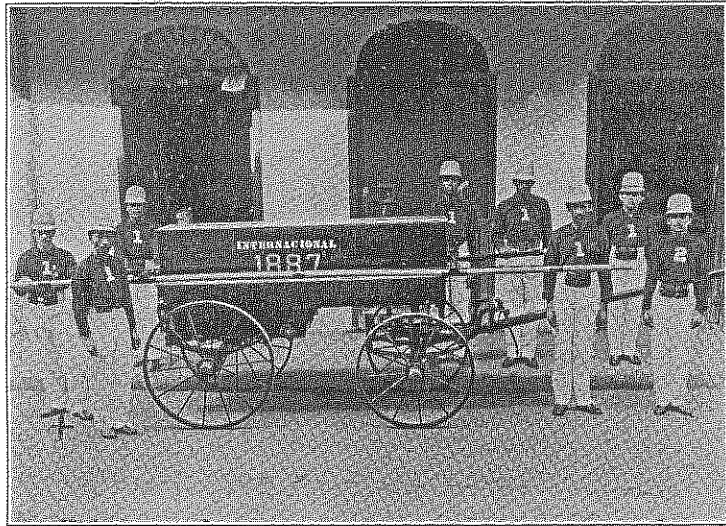




## Cuerpo de Bomberos

LA frecuencia de los incendios en la ciudad de Panamá y las grandes proporciones que éstos tomaban por la falta de elementos para combatirlos, sugirió a los señores Ricardo Arango y Rodolfo Halsted, panameños que habían pertenecido al Cuerpo de Bomberos de Guayaquil, la idea de fundar aquí una institución semejante, para la pro-

Primera bomba del Cuerpo



First Fire Engine of the Brigade

tección y defensa de la propiedad urbana constantemente amenazada.

Tan plausible propósito fue acogido con gran entusiasmo y en breve quedó constituido el Cuerpo de Bomberos de Panamá, el 28 de Noviembre de 1887, bajo las órdenes del señor Arango como Comandante primer Jefe y con el concurso de lo más granado de la juventud panameña que se apresuró a formar en sus filas.

El comercio de la capital contribuyó ampliamente a la organización del Cuerpo, con recursos suficientes para la adquisición de dos pequeñas bombas de mano, mangueras, escalas, uniformes y demás menesteres de la institución. Esas dos bombas recibieron los nombres de *Internacional* y *China*, en honor de los comerciantes de distintas nacionalidades aquí establecidos que suministraron los fondos para su adquisición y de la colonia china que contribuyó también generosamente al mismo objeto.

Algún tiempo después se adquirió otra bomba, también de mano, pero de mayor potencia, a la cual se le dió el nombre de *Panamá*.

El señor Arango estuvo poco tiempo, apenas un año, al frente del Cuerpo. A fines de 1888 renunció el cargo y lo sustituyó en él Don Florencio Arosemena que lo desempeñó durante quince años, hasta su deplorada muerte ocurrida el 18 de Mayo de 1903.

Para esa época la depresión de los negocios con motivo de la última guerra civil colombiana había reducido considerablemente los recursos pecuniarios del Cuerpo y éste había venido por eso muy a menos; pero precisamente por este tiempo también se produjo aquí un incendio de grandes proporciones y ello dió ocasión a que se pensara seriamente en reorganizar la benéfica institución, como así se hizo efectivamente, siendo elegido entonces como Comandante el señor David H. Brandon.

La mayor dificultad con que se tropezaba a la sazón para combatir los incendios y que hacía muchas veces infructuosos los heroicos y abnegados esfuerzos de los bomberos, era la falta de agua, pues no se había construído aún el acueducto de la ciudad y los siniestros ocurrían siempre fatalmente, por desgraciada coincidencia o por cálculo de los incendiarios, durante las horas de la baja mar, de manera que no era posible emplear para combatirlos el agua del océano, única de

## Fire Brigade

THE frequency of fires in the City of Panama and the great proportions that they took for want of elements to combat them, suggested to Messrs. Ricardo Arango and Rodolfo Halsted, Panamanians who had belonged to the fire brigade of Guayaquil, the idea of founding here a similar institution for the protection and defence of urban property, constantly menaced.

Such a plausible idea was received with great enthusiasm, and the Fire Brigade of Panama was soon constituted, on the 28th of November, 1887, under the command of Mr. Arango as Commander and First Chief, and with the help of the most distinguished of the youth of Panama, who hastened to form in its ranks.

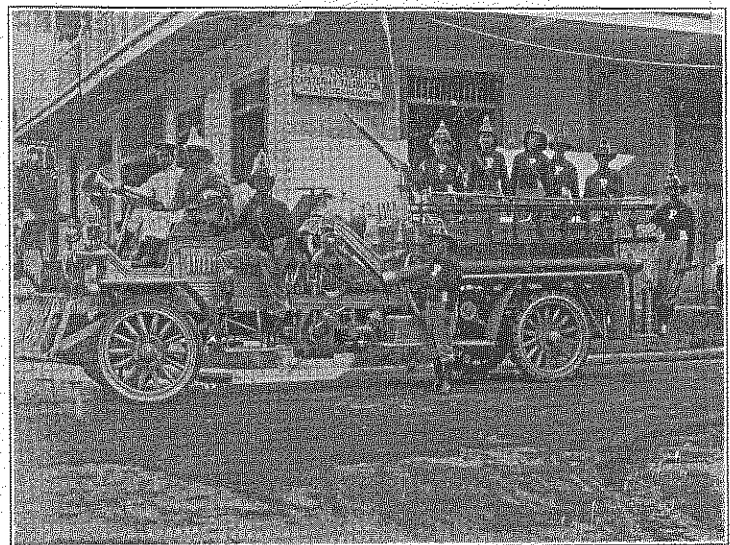
The commerce of the capital largely contributed to the organization of the Brigade, with sufficient resources for the acquisition of two small hand fire engines, hose, ladders, uniforms and further requirements of the institution. Those two engines received the names of *Internacional* (International) and *China* (Chinese) in honor of the merchants of several nationalities established here that supplied the funds for buying them, and of the Chinese colony, which also contributed largely for the same object.

Some time after another fire engine was acquired, also a hand one, but of greater power, to which the name of *Panamá* was given.

Mr. Arango was for a short time, only one year, at the head of the Brigade. At the end of 1888 he resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Florencio Arosemena, who discharged his duties for fifteen years until his deplored death occurred, on the 18th of May, 1903.

By that epoch business depression on account of the last

Bomba automóvil actualmente en uso



Automobile Fire Engine in use at the present time

Colombian war had considerably reduced the pecuniary resources of the Brigade, which had become very poor; but precisely by that time a fire of big proportions took place here, and that gave rise to the serious thought of reorganizing the beneficent institution, and it was done so effectively, Mr. David H. Brandon being then elected Commander.

The greatest difficulty which was confronted at that time to combat fires, and which made fruitless many times the heroic and abnegated efforts of the firemen, was the want of water, as the aqueduct of the city had not yet been made, and the fires occurred always, either by an unhappy coincidence or by the calculation of criminals, during the hours of low tide, so that it was not possible to use against them the water of the ocean, the only one that could have been

# VICTOR MANUEL ALVARADO

Agente Comisionista en General

En su género es la oficina más antigua establecida en Panamá. Administración de casas, siendo por cuenta de la oficina todos los gastos relativos á retenciones, secuestros, etc. Se alquilan apartamentos y cuartos en diferentes [REDACTED]